

LEAD *Educator*



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

FALL 2004

MISSION STATEMENT

The LEAD *Educator* is a quarterly publication of the Long Beach Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Our goal is to provide news and information about childhood lead poisoning prevention measures for parents, childcare providers and the medical community.

In addition, we provide current information on lead poisoning screening and legislative measures.

NEWS

10 YEARS OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL

2004 marks the tenth year of the "Lead-Safe Long Beach" HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program. Through a series of successive grants received by the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, the Program has created over eleven-hundred and seventeen [1,117] lead-safe housing units. These family-occupied, pre-1978 built, affordable housing units are primarily located in the south, west and central areas of the city where lead-based paint was used extensively in earlier residential construction.

The Lead Hazard Control Grant was awarded to the Health Department because of the high rates and concentrations of childhood lead poisoning cases occurring in the city. The first grant, about \$6 million, was awarded to the city by Housing and Urban Development in 1994. Since then, the Program has worked closely with the Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program [CLPPP], which referred eligible residences of lead-poisoned children to the program for control and reduction of lead-based paint hazards.

Other components of Lead-Safe Long Beach include the following:

- Family health education, nutrition counseling and voluntary blood lead testing,
- Temporary family relocation and subsidization of living costs,
- Security services for vacant units under remediation, and
- Owner education to keep the property lead-safe thereafter

The HUD Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control recently informed the Program of a fourth grant for \$3 million to be awarded to the Health Department for four-hundred additional lead-safe units by 2007! Below, a lead hazard controlled apartment building in central Long Beach.

(Before)



(After)



Long Beach Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Outreach Collaborative

The Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Collaborative has been providing culturally sensitive outreach and enrollment services to Long Beach area uninsured residents since 1998. The collaborative has had much success connecting multilingual Certified Application Assistants (CAAs) with schools, clinics, and local health care providers to expedite the enrollment of families into Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and other health insurance options. In addition, the collaborative partners have been responsible for invaluable health care advocacy on behalf of countless families while maintaining impressive program retentions rates. For more information, contact the Medi-Cal Outreach Program at (562) 570-7979.

National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2004 Results

47 Local Convenience stores, markets and other small business participated in our National Lead Week poster campaign.

Orchard Supply & Hardware, Ace Hardware and Smith Paint and Supply collaborated with CLPPP to provide information to the community about lead safe work practices.

Distributed 5000 educational flyers through Head Start, LBUSD, Health Care Providers and other Community Based Organizations.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Adult Lead Poisoning

Although not as common as lead poisoning in children, adult lead poisoning is a major health hazard for adults who work in certain industries. Since January 1, 2003, fifteen (15) workers residing in Long Beach have been identified with lead levels 25 µg/dL or greater.¹ While there are non-occupational sources of lead exposure, most adult lead poisoning cases are the result of workplace exposure from over 100 different industries that work with lead and various other lead compounds (see jobs below).

Even though adults have higher lead exposure thresholds, lead can cause significant damage on the nervous system and brain, digestive system, reproductive system, blood, muscles and skeleton. Just as in children, lead poisoning is often unrecognized because there are no clear symptoms (see symptoms below). Usually, case management and follow-up begins at 40-µg/dL for adults.

The good news is that lead poisoning is a preventable condition; there are two simple tests available for adults and workers in industries that use lead. A blood lead test or BLL measures how much lead is present in the body at the time of the test. A zinc protoporphyrin or ZPP test measures how lead interferes with the ability of red blood cells to make hemoglobin. The California / Occupational Safety and Health Administration Program or Cal/OSHA requires that employers arrange, pay and give their employees the results of these tests in writing. In addition, employers will be cited for not providing prevention measures such as ventilation, exhausts or respirators for their employees.

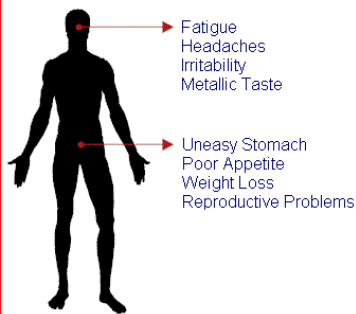
Lead from the workplace can be a source of childhood lead poisoning, if brought home as fine dust in the workers hands, face or clothing. To protect the health of the worker and the family, it is important that workers change into clean clothing and shoes at work before going home, wash their face and hands regularly at work, shower as soon as they get home and wash work clothing separately. Additional information about adult lead poisoning can be obtained on the Internet <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/OLPPP/Default.htm>, or by calling (510) 622-4300.

¹ Preliminary, unpublished data from the Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Susan Payne, personal communication (12/14/04).

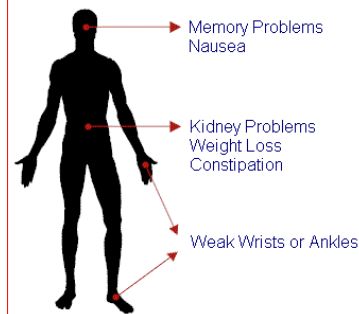
JOB'S THAT EXPOSE WORKERS TO LEAD:

- Battery Manufacturing and Recycling
- Scrap Metal Recycling
- Smelting and Casting
- Radiator Repair
- Ceramics and Manufacturing
- Grinding or Machine Metal
- Lead Soldering (Electronics Industry)
- Manufacturing of Ammunition and Explosives
- Compounding Plastic Resins
- Using Industrial Lead-Based Paints, Inks, Glazes or Pigments

Early Symptoms of Lead Poisoning



Later Symptoms of Lead Poisoning



Childhood Lead Poisoning Report Jul-Dec, 2004

New Lead Cases:

9

Number of Blood Lead Tests:

2434

Levels: < 4µg/dL

2314

Levels: < 10µg/dL

107

Levels: <20µg/dL

5

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For additional information, please call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (562) 570-4203 or (562) 570-7923 (Spanish)

Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

Call: (562) 570-7979

Or

1 (800) 832-2307

INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

California Department of Health Services
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/>

Alliance for Healthy Homes
<http://www.afhh.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
www.hud.gov/offices/lead/

T.D.D. (562) 570-4230

This document is available in an alternative format by request:
(562) 570-7923